



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
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NEWS RELEASE

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Race to the Top Proposal Could Support Teachers, Transform Schools Commissioner Gist Posts \$126.6-million Grant Application on RIDE Web Site

The Race to the Top proposal that Rhode Island submitted to the U.S. Department of Education on Tuesday (January 19th) seeks \$126.6-million to support teachers and schools leaders, to turn around persistently low-achieving schools, to improve data systems, and to develop world-class standards and assessments.

Education Commissioner Deborah A. Gist today (January 22nd) [posted](http://www.ride.ri.gov/commissioner/RaceToTheTop/docs/RhodeIsland-RTTApplicationnarrative.pdf) the proposal on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) Web site, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/commissioner/RaceToTheTop/docs/RhodeIsland-RTTApplicationnarrative.pdf>

“I am tremendously appreciative of the hard work that went into preparing the Race to the Top application. It is greatly satisfying to see such widespread support for our efforts,” said Robert G. Flanders, Jr., Esq., Chairman of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. “We look forward to working together with educators, school leaders, and the entire community to put these plans into action and to advance learning for all students.”

“Our Race to the Top proposal has the potential to bring \$126.6 million to Rhode Island to support education,” said Commissioner Gist. “If we receive these funds, we will make tremendous investments in specific initiatives to help teachers serve our students, including comprehensive, high-quality professional development, induction, and mentoring.”

The proposal also seeks funds to develop a model curriculum and to support the implementation of the new Rhode Island Educator Evaluation-System Standards, which will use multiple measures of student growth and achievement.

“To ensure that these initiatives are successful, we are committed to having educators at the table from day one,” said Commissioner Gist. “Teachers will be involved in the development and design of these critical systems.”

The U.S. Department of Education will award Race to the Top grants in April. States that do not receive funding then may apply by June 1st for a second round of funding.

The proposal has been endorsed by more than 60 letters of support from individuals and organizations, including the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals and the Providence Teachers Union.

Several foundations have provided support to help RIDE prepare the application, including The Rhode Island Foundation, the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

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